

SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION	
EXHIBIT NO.	<u>4</u>
DATE:	<u>2/10/09</u>
BILL NO.	<u>SB347</u>

Senate Highways & Transportation Committee

February 10, 2009

RE: SB347

Chairman John Brueggeman  
Committee Members

The Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association represents OHV enthusiasts from around Montana. The membership of 3,000 is made up of individuals, family, business and organizations. We also represent the OHV enthusiasts who are not members of our association, who use their OHV to enjoy Montana trails and roads for many diverse recreational purposes.

MTVRA believes the current registration permanent decals and license plates requirements are sufficient for Montana residents.

MTVRA supports New Section 1, establishing a temporary registration permit for non residents, highway and off highway for a 40 day period.

MTVRA does not support Section 4 requiring all off highway vehicles used on public land to be equipped with a license plate. We understand the desire of some to make OHV's more identifiable but we question the benefit versus the cost and burden it places on the riders.

- It would increase cost to the riders
- Require riders to mount plates on vehicles with no provisions for plates.
- Creates a safety hazard on youth OHVs
- Puts a burden on counties: plates + 2 decals on all new purchases and 54,000 OHVs registered in 2007
- Could cause challenges for on road enforcement:
- Increases administration cost and burden on citizens at a time when we don't need more

MTVRA could support the bill if it provided the following:

- Exempt youth size OHV: Kids under 12 can not use an OHV on a road in Montana under any circumstances
- The mounting of an off road plate provided the ability of communities and counties to designate roads open for access between services and OHV opportunities, and designate motorized trails for summer use on existing right of ways. This would provide:
  - Promote economic development
  - Improve riding opportunities
  - Mirror snowmobile programs

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. Respectfully submitted:

Russ Ehnes, Past President  
Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association